

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President and Members of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 810 SD2 HD1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, Senate Bill No. 810, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Waimano Ridge" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

This bill appropriates \$150,000 in fiscal year 2007-2008 and \$150,000 in fiscal year 2008-2009 to the Department of Health for operating expenses of the Waimano Ridge task force. My administration supports the work of this task force, established to give members of the community surrounding the former location of the Waimano Hospital and Training School (Waimano Ridge) an opportunity to provide input into the development of Waimano Ridge.

Because the Department of Health has existing funds within the Executive Biennium Budget to accomplish the goals of the Waimano Ridge task force, this bill is unnecessary.

The Executive Biennium Budget in Act 213 (House Bill No. 500) contains substantial appropriations for improvements to Waimano Ridge and the development of a master plan for Waimano Ridge. For fiscal year 2007-2008, a total of \$9,700,000 is appropriated in capital improvement and operating funds specifically for Waimano Ridge, including \$700,000 for the development of a master plan for the area. For fiscal 2008-2009, \$1,800,000 is specifically appropriated for Waimano Ridge building and water system improvements.

Additionally, this bill is technically flawed because it does not contain standard language that provides that "members shall not receive compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties." As a result, this bill lacks the standard prohibitions that make it clear that public funds cannot be used to provide salaries or hourly compensation for task force members.

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The Department of Health will continue to assist the task force in carrying out its duties as the planning and improvements work at Waimano Ridge proceeds, using resources already within its budget.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed Senate Bill No. 810 to become law as Act 293, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE